

March 4 1944

Mr Raleigh Mackey
1831 E. 53 St.
Los. Angeles Calif.

Dear Mackey:

Well I put off answering your letter until now, because I was waiting until we had our league meeting to see what was what. We met in New York yesterday at The Thraza Hotel. I know you would have enjoyed being there. After the meeting Semler had all the baseball people for dinner as his guest. It was really very nice. There were lots of people in town for the Montgomery-Beau Jack fight.

Next the baseball outlook for the coming season is as well as could be expected. We have no choice in the matter, but to go on. We are all encouraged by the fact that the fans turned out last year in spite of increased prices in most parks, and the gasoline curtailment. The crowds were not as big of course in the parks that were hard to reach, but they were big enough to keep every one alive. We have lost more good men than any team. Imagine a team losing Ruffin, Doby, Parks, Isreal, Day, Manning, Irving, Richardson and Brown, and being able to carry on. Incidentally I had a letter from Irving this morning. He is in England, and wishes he was here for the start of the season. He don't wish it half as hard as I do.

Well as things shape up now, we have a chance to have a pretty good club. Wells and Dandridge have promised to stay. In fact the draft board would not turn Dandridge loose. Pearson, Davis, Hill, Hooker Harvey are in 4F for the present. Dandridge and Watkins with big families are in 3A, but that does not mean much. We of course as usual will have several rookies in camp.

About salary, we know conditions are not the same as before. We are willing to give you a contract for \$250.00 a month, and I know you will not have any trouble about getting a job around here. The manpower situation is critical. Please let me hear from you right away, as we plan to leave for camp the first week in April at the latest, maybe the last week in March.